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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5449  
INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 8250  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 7390  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2913  
RUEHKF/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 9124  
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 4973  
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 3660  
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 000872

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/04/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [FK](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER SHAH MEHMOOD  
QURESHI

REF: A. ISLAMABAD 691

[1](#)B. LAHORE 698

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

- [1](#)1. (C) Summary: This is one of several profiles on political leaders who will play a large role in Pakistan's new government. The Pakistan
- [1](#)2. (C) Qureshi, the PPP's Punjab President, is a smooth and sophisticated interlocutor, and he appears sincere in professing that his and F
- [1](#)3. (C) Benazir Bhutto in early 2007 appointed Qureshi--a relatively junior member of the party's leadership--president of the PPP in Punjab
- [1](#)4. (C) However, some senior PPP Punjabi leaders, including Gillani, consider Qureshi an outsider and have refused to accept his leadership.
- [1](#)5. (C) Zardari told NSA Tariq Aziz he was considering Qureshi as a candidate for Prime Minister. Aziz was unenthusiastic and told Zardari he  
""If I am Prime Minister,"" Qureshi told us that ""I am not going to be Zardari's 'yes-man.' I am loyal to the party and to Zardari, but I s  
Career and Personal History  
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- [1](#)6. (C) Qureshi originally joined Nawaz Sharif in 1985, and won seats in the Punjab Provincial Assembly in 1985, 1988, and 1990. He was Punj
- [1](#)7. (C) Qureshi was District Nazim (mayor) of Multan  
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(2000-2002); party critics say he ran in the local (non-party) election without Benazir's blessing but with Musharraf's tacit support. Qur
- [1](#)8. (C) Qureshi was born in Multan on June 22, 1956. He hails from a religious and politically active family and is the hereditary caretaker  
Qureshi is fluent in Urdu, English, Punjabi, and Seraiki.
- [1](#)9. (C) Comment: We have multiple and repeated indications that Zardari does not want Faheem to be Prime Minister.  
Zardari considers Faheem to be weak and lazy, but the real problem we suspect is that Faheem has his own significant power base in Sindh and  
PATTERSON